

Subtracting Integers

The subtraction sign means to add the opposite.

Same Sign

Both Integers are Positive

$$4 - 7 =$$

Rewrite as an addition problem and solve.

Four plus the opposite of positive seven

$$4 + (-7) = -3$$

Both Integers are Negative

$$-3 - (-6) =$$

Rewrite as an addition problem and solve.

Negative three plus the opposite of negative six

$$-3 + 6 = 3$$

Different Signs

One integer is positive and the other is negative.

$$5 - (-2) =$$

Rewrite as an addition problem and solve.

Five plus the opposite of negative two

$$5 + 2 = 7$$

One integer is positive and the other is negative.

$$-8 - 1 =$$

Rewrite as an addition problem and solve.

Negative eight plus the opposite of positive one

$$-8 + (-1) = -9$$